years, Professor Moraux has a high regard for the old windbag from Pergamum, and his conclusions on Galen's eclectic philosophy of nature emphasize his adherence to a "high scientific ideal", p. 791. It is a tradition to which Professor Moraux himself adheres (see his comments on modern university standards in his preface), and of which this book is a worthy monument. All Galenists will have to read and take issue with this book, and weigh up, e.g., the doubts expressed, p. 775, on the validity of the Arabic summary of *De moribus,* or the hints of Galen in Plotinus, p. 808. It only remains to wish the author good speed with his next volume, which will contain a detailed account of the one contemporary of Galen whose counterarguments are still left to us today, Alexander of Aphrodisias. He and Galen, according to the Arabic tradition, shared the same teacher, cf. pp. 361–364, but their conceptions of Aristotle and of the importance of the Aristotelian tradition were far different. Professor Moraux has firmly set Galen in his place within Aristotelian scholarship, and one can only look forward, with admiration and with eagerness, to the next volume. Despite its price, this book should be on the shelves of every library with claims to learning, if only as an example of the force and variety of the legacy of Aristotle in which we all share.

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ROBERT A. NYE, *Crime, madness, and politics in modern France. The medical concept of national decline,* Princeton University Press, 1984, 8vo, pp. xv, 367, illus., £32.40.

When a French politician advocated the transportation of recidivists in the late nineteenth century, he alluded to the Paris commune and the large proportion of communards who had been compulsive petty criminals. He found statistics readily available to confirm his view. The recalcitrant offender was not only a parasite, a social nuisance, but also a potential danger to the social order. His effective treatment was then a matter of social necessity; the ethics of punishing and reforming individuals was simultaneously a question of national defence. Moreover, this question was conceived in increasingly clinical terms. Thus, an expert demanded the elimination of the criminally insane "simply out of the spirit of social preservation and with as little anger as when we are killing a rabid dog."

Such arguments occurred within a new conjuncture of medicine, law, and politics of critical importance for social thought and policy in and beyond France. Robert Nye's book, a collection of interlocking essays, traces both the practical implications of these criminological and psychiatric debates, and the constitution of a new shared language of social pathology—the assumed common ground from which disagreements departed. There was to be a complex movement, a negotiation, between positive sciences and law; points of compromise and reconciliation. Medicine sought to establish its place ideologically in and against classical jurisprudence, and professionally as the expert witness of the courts.

In an interesting discussion of the disputes between French and Italian criminology (ch. 4 'Heredity or milieu . . .'), Nye discusses the Lombrosan theory of born criminals. Criminal anthropology in Italy had allotted itself the role of judging scientifically those primordial creatures who were marked out by simian stigmata on their bodies and who were morally incapacitated from birth. It would preside before the law, separating those who were and were not fit to plead. Only some "defendants" could be treated as subjects responsible for their actions, others were helpless beasts. Lombrosanism, in short, amounted to a drastic assault on the hegemony of the legal profession over the law and the very crudity of this attempted "coup" severely limited its legislative gains. Nye shows how from the very first international congress of criminal anthropology in Rome in 1885, French theorists were to offer a scathing critique of the excesses of Italian hereditarianism. For in France the greater ideological and practical accommodations made between doctors and lawyers helped secure their mutual vested interests more effectively and also followed more easily from the strength and pervasiveness of Lamarckianism in French thought.

Despite all the difficulties and rivalries, there was to be a certain *rapprochement* between punishment and medicine. Strange juxtapositions of sociology and biological determinism

became possible in this tradition. A belief, say, in the slum's deleterious effects on health (and thus its immorality) was compatible at times with a thesis of racial degeneration: the environment as if grafted into the body (transferred from one ecology to another) and then reproduced across future generations in a spiral of decline. Regeneration and rejuvenation were simply the other side of this coin. A chapter on the campaign for national revival and sport shows a movement obsessed with formidable drift to degeneration, to some nadir of unfitness. Calls for social welfare, physical training, and drastic "surgery" against those elements beyond the pale of the social order could be made simultaneously. Old republican hostilities to the non-productive classes were renewed in clinical terms. As René Waldeck-Rousseau, Minister of the Interior put it, incorrigibility faded into incurability: "[We need] a new punishment for the effective and energetic repression of these incurables of vice, these incorrigibles of misdemeanour and crime, who wilfully live outside the boundaries of society, struggle openly against it, and through their repeated infractions, pose a serious and continuous threat to public tranquility."

No doubt many of these images have a certain pertinence today, with the resurgence perhaps (in these very different social and political circumstances) of the rhetoric of degeneration—parasitism, competition, fitness . . . the host of enemies without and within? In that sense, the fictions of the turn of the last century, from *The war of the worlds* to *Germinal* still have their echoes, real or imagined, for the turn of ours.

Nye's essays necessarily raise many more themes than they fully engage. But there are some strange under-emphases. The novel, for instance, though clearly important to the subject (to the consolidation of new narratives, a whole historiography, conflating the organic and the social, linking the crises of body and polity in one imaginative frame) is given little attention. Moreover, when Zola or Huysmans is mentioned, it is only to illustrate a discourse assumed to have been forged elsewhere. To a peculiar degree, in fact, degenerationism in the late nineteenth century was produced in a continual refraction between scientific and literary languages. A whole story of decline, civilisation and its discontents, the fall of empires, is therefore at issue in Nye's book but sometimes beyond the terms of the discussion.

What is valuably evoked, however, is the conceptual unity of social pathologies in the debates before 1914. Crime, madness, alcoholism, perversity, anarchism, prostitution, and so on were all aspects of an apparent synthesis, a singular process of national performance. Every crime or suicide became a statistic in an anxious European competition for survival. It may have taken the first world war, Nye suggests, to prove that Europe was not dying slowly of incurable illness, but, on the contrary, had the capacity to unleash hitherto unparalleled harm programmatically upon itself.

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JONATHON ERLEN, *The history of the health care sciences and health care 1700—1980: A selective annotated bibliography,* New York, Garland, 1984, 8vo, pp. xvi, 1028, $100.00.

Our typical response with bibliographies is to be glad that scholars compile them, but to grumble that they don't match up more closely to our needs; and Jonathon Erlen's is no exception. Its most conspicuous virtue lies in bringing conveniently between two covers some five thousand references to books, articles, and (extremely valuably) unpublished dissertations in the field of the history of medicine, broadly considered, over the last three centuries. Many of these entries are annotated; and although the annotations are merely descriptive rather than critical, the annotation nevertheless performs a useful service, especially when publications have cryptic or misleading titles. My spot checks suggest that Erlen's bibliographical information is reliably accurate.

Erlen has organized his citations in a single alphabetical sequence of subject headings, from ABDOMEN through to YELLOW FEVER, which makes it a quick-to-use guide for the researcher anxious to discover, at a glance, what to consult on the DRUG INDUSTRY, on